

**NATIONAL DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

May 30, 2008

**National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland**

MINUTES

The National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council convened on May 30, 2008 in Building 31, Conference Room 6, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. Dr. James F. Battey, Jr., Director, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), served as Chairperson. In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was:

Closed: May 30, 2008: 8:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. for review of individual grant applications; and

Open: May 30, 2008: 10:50 a.m. to 1:55 p.m., for the review and discussion of program development needs and policy.

Council members in attendance:¹

Ms. Donna Bates Boucher
Dr. Margaretha Casselbrant
Dr. Edward Conture
Dr. Karen Cruickshanks
Dr. Albert Feng
Dr. Nathan Fischel-Ghodsian
Dr. Susan Goldin-Meadow
Dr. Charles Greer

Mr. Ronald Lanier
Dr. Sharon Moss
Dr. Lorraine Ramig
Dr. Randall Reed
Dr. Allen Ryan
Dr. Ernest Weymuller
Dr. William Yost

Council members absent:

Dr. Jennifer Horner
Ms. Myrna Orleck-Aiello
Dr. Steve Rauch

¹For the record, it is noted that members absent themselves from the meeting when the Council is discussing applications (a) from their respective institutions or (b) in which a real or apparent conflict of interest might occur. This procedure applies only to individual discussion of an application and not to "en bloc" actions.

Ex-Officio Members Not Participating:

Dr. Lucille B. Beck (represented at the Open Session by Dr. Kyle Dennis)
Dr. John R. Franks
Dr. Michael E. Hoffer

The Council roster is found as Appendix 1.

Various members of the public, NIDCD staff and other NIH staff, were in attendance during the open session of the Council meeting. A complete list of those present for all or part of the meeting is found in Appendix 2.

CLOSED SESSION

I. Call To Order and Opening Remarks Dr. James F. Battey, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Battey, Director, NIDCD, who welcomed Dr. Randall Reed as a new member to the Council, and expressed appreciation to the entire Council for their service and advice. Dr. Randall Reed has been appointed to the Council and a more formal introduction to staff and other members of our audience is planned during the open session. Dr. Jennifer Horner, Dr. Steven Rauch, and Ms. Myrna Orleck-Aiello had scheduling conflicts which prevented them from attending this meeting.

II. Council Procedures Dr. Craig A. Jordan

Procedural Matters

Dr. Jordan discussed important procedural matters, including requirements imposed by the Government in the Sunshine Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The necessity of members to avoid conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof, was stressed, as was the need to maintain confidentiality concerning the proceedings and materials related to the closed portion of the meeting. Dr. Jordan announced that the Council meeting would be closed for consideration of grant applications during the morning session, but would be open to the public at approximately 11:05 a.m.

III. Council Consideration of Pending Applications

The Council gave special attention to applications involving issues related to protection of human subjects, animal welfare, biohazards and/or women/minority/children representation in study populations as identified by the initial review groups. The Council individually discussed applications being considered for High Program Priority, from New Investigators, and whenever additional discussion was required.

A. Research Project Grant Awards

1. Consideration of Applications: On the Council's agenda was a total of 94 investigator-initiated research grant applications; 86 applications had primary assignment to NIDCD, in the amount of \$25.77 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that, of the applications competing at this Council, NIDCD will be able to award grants to R01 applications scoring up to the 20.9 percentile.

B. Special Programs Actions

1. NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00): The Council recommended support of five applications.
2. Small Grants (R03): The Council recommended support of six applications.
3. NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (R13): The Council recommended support of three applications.
4. AREA Grant (R15): The Council recommended support of two applications.
5. NIH Exploratory/Development Research Grant Award (R21): The Council recommended support of five applications.
6. NIDCD Research Core Center Grant (P30): The Council recommended support of three applications.
7. NIDCD Research Centers (P50): The Council recommended support of one application.
8. Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR): The Council recommended support of one Phase I (R41) application.
9. Small Business Innovation Research Awards (SBIR): The Council recommended support for four Phase I (R43) applications and two Phase II (R44) applications.
10. DC08-001 – Outcomes in Children with Mild to Severe Hearing Loss (R01): The Council recommended support of two applications.
11. DC08-002 – Collaborative Research on Tinnitus (R01): The Council recommended support of two applications.
12. PAR08-900 – Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience (CRCNS): The Council recommended support of three applications.

IV. Scientific Director Workgroup Report Dr. Allen Ryan

Dr. Allen Ryan presented the Scientific Director Workgroup Report. Dr. Ryan chaired this work group on behalf of the Council and the report was provided to members prior to the meeting. The next step in this process is for the Council to forward the report and recommendations to Dr. Battey, NIDCD Director, and to NIH's Director of the Division of Intramural Research. Council endorsed the report as written.

OPEN SESSION

V. Opening Remarks Dr. Battey

Dr. Battey welcomed additional staff and visitors to the open session of the meeting and introduced Dr. Randall Reed as a new member of the Council:

- **Dr. Randall Reed** received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Yale University. His research interests include signal transduction, neurogenesis, gene regulation, and olfaction. In 2005 he was appointed as Director for the Center for Sensory Biology, Institute of Basic Biomedical Science in addition to his role as Professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He has received numerous rewards and honors including an extended appointment as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Dr. Reed is widely published and serves often as an NIH reviewer of grant applications. He has served on the editorial boards of several prestigious molecular and neuroscience journals, including the *Journal of Neuroscience*. Dr. Reed served as a member of the Board Scientific Counselors, NIDCD from 1998-2003.

Consideration of Minutes of the Meeting of January 25, 2008

Dr. Battey called members' attention to the minutes of the January 25, 2008 meeting of the Advisory Council. The minutes were approved as written.

Confirmation of Dates for Future Council Meetings

Dates for the Council meetings through September 2010 have been established. A list of these meetings was distributed to the Council members and posted on the web site prior to this meeting. The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 2008, in Building 31, Conference Room 6 on the NIH campus, Bethesda, Maryland.

VI. Report of the Director, NIDCD Dr. Battey

Budget Considerations:

Dr. Battey began his presentation with a breakdown of the Budget Appropriation for FY 2008. He discussed how the \$276.6 million available for research project grants in the FY2008 Budget Appropriation will be allocated. From this total, \$9.5 million is reserved for Small Business Research grants, \$1.2 million for administrative supplements, \$204.2 million for commitments to noncompeting grants, \$1.4 million for carryover commitments from prior Council meetings, and \$14.5 million for program requirements. Twenty percent of the remaining \$50.9 million is designated for High Program Priority (HPP). Consequently, there is \$40.8 million available for the initial payline across the year's three Council meetings. This should allow funding of applications up to the 20.9 percentile. The \$10.2 million for HPP applications will be available to support additional applications. A copy of the slides Dr. Battey used for his budget presentation is included in Appendix 3.

VII. Report of the Division of Scientific Programs Dr. Cooper

Dr. Cooper discussed historical funding patterns for voice, speech, and language (VSL) research at NIDCD and other Institutes at NIH. She then discussed recent changes relative to those historical patterns and how recent changes implemented by NIDCD were communicated to the research community. Dr. Cooper: a) emphasized NIDCD's continued support for basic research in the areas of VSL; b) encouraged basic research directly related to disordered VSL conditions; c) stressed continued support of VSL animal communication models with direct relevance to human communication disorders; d) encouraged patient-oriented research on VSL disorders and, e) reminded about the usefulness of clarifying questions with NIDCD program staff.

Dr. Cooper turned the podium over to Dr. Nancy Freeman who provided some history about NIDCD's effort to support the development of a Special Topic Education Course in the area of Auditory and Vestibular Biology. Dr. Freeman then introduced Dr. Jeffrey Corwin to discuss "A Report on the 2007 Woods Hole Biology of the Inner Ear Course."

Dr. Corwin

This report described a new Special Topics Course, "Biology of the Inner Ear: Experimental and Analytical Approaches" which was offered from August 19 to September 1, 2007 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. The course was designed to provide students who were new to investigations of the inner ear with instruction and hands-on experience in the application of specialized strategies and methods for overcoming the challenges of experimental and analytical research on the inner ear, its cells, and the systems to which it interfaces. Through research seminars, roundtable discussions, lectures, and laboratory exercises where students and a large international collection of expert research instructors worked side-by-side, the course helped a select group of talented students from the biological and physical/computational sciences to gain the capacity to address important problems in auditory and vestibular research.

The course sought to foster the development of the students as investigators, by emphasizing opportunities for important discoveries, innovative approaches, and the potential for the translation of discoveries into meaningful improvements in health care. Students used state-of-the-art equipment to learn microdissection procedures for harvesting inner ear tissues; methods for culturing inner ear tissues; use of fluorescent and immune probes for light and electron microscope imaging of the living and fixed cochlea; modern methods of hair-cell electrophysiology; adenoviral infection, biolistic transfection, and in utero electroporation for introducing genes into hair cells; the use of zebrafish for studies of hair cell regeneration; the generation of inner-ear stem cells; bioinformatic analysis of gene expression; and other approaches.

VIII. Report of the Director, Division of Extramural Activities Dr. Jordan

Dr. Jordan presented the Report of the Director, Division of Extramural Activities.

Enhancing Peer Review

Dr. Jordan provided an update on the trans-NIH efforts for Enhancing Peer Review since the report provided at the January Council meeting. After the Draft Recommendations Report was released in February, an exhaustive process was followed to solicit comments from the public, NIH staff, and NIH advisory groups. The result was a Draft Implementation Plan that was provided to Dr. Zerhouni on April 15th and represents the starting point for a phased implementation, scheduled to begin in early June. The four core themes that are currently slated for implementation include 1)

Excellence of reviewers, 2) Fairness and clarity of peer review, 3) Support for scientists at different stages of their careers, and 4) Continuous quality control and improvement of peer review. Dr. Jordan pointed out that the initial draft report included many recommendations, some of which might be difficult to implement or were viewed with mixed opinions. He presented a list of recommendations that are not being pursued at the current time. Council members were invited to stay involved and informed as the effort moves into the implementation phase. The website for this trans-NIH activity is: <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/>

IX. Strategic Planning Report Council Members

Dr. Battey introduced the Strategic Plan Workgroup members, Dr. Charles Greer (Chair), Dr. Albert Feng, Dr. Lorraine Ramig, and Dr. Steven Rauch. Dr. Greer was invited to tell about the workgroup's efforts.

Dr. Greer:

Dr. Greer started his presentation by giving an overview of the strategic plan and discussing the utilization of the plan. The NIDCD Strategic Plan serves as a guide to the NIDCD in prioritizing its research investment. The plan is used by NIH, NIDCD, PIs, and Council. The current Strategic Plan draft was developed by the working group after soliciting comments from all members of Council and reaching out to colleagues. After receiving those recommendations the workgroup modified most areas of the plan to improve the organization of the plan, added accomplishments, added future needs/opportunities, and updated the state-of-the-science. Dr. Greer highlighted some major changes that led to the current draft. Significant changes included an update of the state-of-the-science and adding a section on training and career development in an early section of the document. The workgroup also recommends that NIDCD consider implementation of a more flexible approach for coding and tracking of the four strategic plan priorities so that changes to wording, order, or additions can be easily done in the future as needed. The strategic plan priorities are: Molecular and Epidemiological Bases of Normal and Disordered Communication Processes; Development, Deterioration, Regeneration, and Plasticity of Processes Mediating Communication; Perceptual, Cognitive, and Sensorimotor Processing in Normal and Disordered Communication; and, Development and Improvement of Devices, Pharmacologic Agents, and Strategies for Habilitation, Rehabilitation, and Prevention of Human Communication Disorders.

Several recommendations were offered and discussed by members. As part of the initial planning, all Council members and NIDCD staff were to be provided a copy of the Strategic Plan draft and asked to provide comments during June. The Workgroup will use that advice to develop an improved draft for consideration at the September 2008 meeting.

X. Office of Extramural Research (OER) Animals in Research Initiatives Ms. Susan Silk

Dr. Battey introduced Ms. Susan Silk, Director, Division of Policy and Education in NIH's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare to discuss recent efforts in NIH's Office of Extramural Research regarding Animals in Research.

Ms. Silk:

Ms. Silk discussed the purpose and importance of the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). OLAW provides guidance and interpretation of the PHS Policy, supports educational

programs, and monitors compliance with the Policy by Assured institutions and PHS funding components to ensure the humane care and use of animals in PHS-supported research, testing, and training; thereby contributing to the quality of PHS-supported activities. NIH's Office of Extramural Research has a responsibility to ensure NIH's ability to support biomedical research that relies on appropriate models, including animal models, to advance health and to foster a prepared, responsive environment for NIH-funded research with animal models. Ms. Silk discussed some of the challenges faced by researchers and institutions that utilize animal research models. She also provided current examples and some insight into the next steps NIH is implementing in support of those research efforts.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. on May 30, 2008.

XII. Certification of Minutes

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and correct.²

Craig A. Jordan, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
National Deafness and Other Communication
Disorders Advisory Council

James F. Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman
National Deafness and Other Communication
Disorders Advisory Council

Director
National Institute on Deafness and
Other Communication Disorders

Kristin Shazor
Program Analyst
NDCD Advisory Council

² These minutes will be formally considered by the NDCD Advisory Council at its next meeting; corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

APPENDICES

		PAGE
APPENDIX 1	NDCD Advisory Council Roster	10
APPENDIX 2	List of Meeting Attendees.....	12
APPENDIX 3	NIDCD Director's Report Slides	14

Roster
National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council

Chairperson

James F Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Director
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

<p>BATES-BOUCHER, Donna President Bates Group, Inc. Eight Hyde Park Circle Denver, CO</p>	<p>2009</p>	<p>GOLDIN-MEADOW, Susan J., Ph.D. Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor Department of Psychology Division of Social Sciences University of Chicago Chicago, IL</p>	<p>2008</p>
<p>CASSELBRANT, Margaretha L., M.D., Ph.D. Eberly Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology Director, Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine Pittsburgh, PA</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>GREER, Charles A., Ph.D. 2011 Professor of Neuroscience Department of Neurosurgery Yale University School of Medicine New Haven, CT</p>	
<p>CONTURE, Edward G., Ph.D. Professor and Director, Graduate Studies Vanderbilt University Medical Center DHSS Graduate Studies and Research Nashville, TN</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>HORNER, Jennifer, J.D., Ph.D. Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies College of Health and Human Services Ohio University Athens, OH</p>	<p>2010</p>
<p>CRUICKSHANKS, Karen J., Ph.D. Professor Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Madison, WI</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>LANIER, Ronald L. Director Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commonwealth of Virginia Richmond, VA</p>	<p>2008</p>
<p>FENG, Albert S., Ph.D., MS Professor Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Urbana, IL</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>MOSS, Sharon E., Ph.D. Director Scientific Programs and Research Development Science and Research Unit American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc. Rockville, MD</p>	<p>2008</p>
<p>FISCHEL-GHODSIAN, Nathan, M.D. Professor Department of Pediatrics Cedars-Sinai Medical Center University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA</p>	<p>2009</p>	<p>ORLECK-AIELLO, Myrna "Mo" CEO/President Abacus N Bytes, Inc. D/B/A TCS Associates Wheaton, MD</p>	<p>2009</p>

RAMIG, Lorraine, Ph.D., CCC-SLP 2010
Professor
Department of Speech Language Hearing Sciences
University of Colorado, Boulder
Boulder, CO

HOFFER, Michael E., M.D.
Co-Director
Department of Defense Spatial Orientation Center
Department of Otolaryngology
Naval Medical Center
San Diego, CA

RAUCH, Steven D., M.D. 2010
Professor Otolaryngology
Department of Otology & Laryngology
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
Boston, MA

LEAVITT, Michael O.
Secretary
Department of Health and
Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
Washington, DC

REED, Randall, Ph.D. 2011
Director, Center for Sensory Biology
Professor, Department of Molecular Biology
and Genetics
Department of Neuroscience
Department of Otolaryngology - HNS
John Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

ZERHOUNI, Elias Adam, M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

RYAN, Allen F., Ph.D. 2009
Professor of Surgery/Otolaryngology
Department of Surgery
University of California at San Diego
La Jolla, CA

JORDAN, Craig A., Ph.D.
Director
Division of Extramural Research, NIDCD
Bethesda, MD

WEYMULLER, Ernest A., M.D. 2009
Professor
Department of Otolaryngology-HNS
University of Washington
School of Medicine
Seattle, WA

YOST, William A., Ph.D. 2011
Chair of Speech and Hearing Science
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

BECK, Lucille B., Ph.D.
Director
Audiology & Speech Pathology Service (117A)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC

Rev. 06/2008

Appendix 2

ATTENDANCE LIST

Other than Council members, attendees at the May 30, 2008 Council meeting included:

NIDCD Staff:

Office of Health Communication and Public Liaison

Blessing, Patricia, Chief

Miranda-Acevedo, Robert, MPA, Science Writer/Public Liaison Officer

Lisle, Lonnie, Information Specialist

Wenger, Jenny, Technical Writer

Office of Administration

Kerr, W. David, Executive Officer

Wysong, Chad, Deputy Executive Officer

Financial Management Branch

Langston, Catherine, Budget Analyst

Lee, Mimi, Budget Analyst

Science Policy and Planning Branch

Wong, Baldwin, Chief

Cole, Laura, Ph.D., Science Policy Analyst

Montney, Lisa, Ph.D., Science Policy Analyst

Division of Extramural Activities

Jordan, Craig A., Ph.D., Director

Shazor, Kristin, M.S.H.A., Program Analyst

Stephenson, Nanette, Program Assistant

Grants Management Branch

Myers, Christopher, Chief

Dabney, Sherry, Grants Management Officer

Doan, Hoai, Grants Management Specialist

Garcia, Maria, Grants Management Specialist

McNamara, Castilla, Ph.D., M.P.A., Grants Management Specialist

Myrbeck, Eddie, Grants Management Specialist

Ranney, Meigs, Grants Management Officer

Scientific Review Branch

Stick, Melissa, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief

Livingston, Christine, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer

Moore, Christopher, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer

Singh, Sheo, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer
Yang, Shiguang A., Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer

Division of Scientific Programs
Cooper, Judith, Ph.D., Director

Voice, Speech, Language, Smell and Taste Branch
Cooper, Judith, Ph.D., Program Director, Language Program
Davis, Barry, Ph.D., Program Director, Smell and Taste Program
Shekim, Lana, Ph.D., Program, Director, Voice & Speech Program
Sklare, Daniel A., Ph.D., Program Director, Research Training and
Development Program

Hearing and Balance/Vestibular Branch
Donahue, Amy, Ph.D., Chief
Freeman, Nancy, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing
Platt, Christopher, Ph.D., Program Director, Balance/Vestibular
Watson, Bracie, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing

Translational Research Branch
Hoffman, Howard, M.A., Program Director for Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Chiu, May, Program Analyst for Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Division of Extramural Administrative Support, OER, NIH
Holmes, Debbie, Extramural Support Assistant

Center for Scientific Review, NIH
Melchior, Christine, Chief, Integrative Function & Cognitive Neuroscience IRG
Finkelstein, Judith, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer
Kenshalo, Daniel, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer
Luethke, Lynn, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer
Ni, Weijia, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer
Tian, Biao, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer

Office of Director, NIH, and Others
Corwin, Jeffrey, Ph.D., Professor, University of VA
Cyr, Janet, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, WVU School of Medicine
Dawidowicz, Lenny, Ph.D., Director of Education, Marine Biological Laboratory
Dennis, Kyle, Ph.D., Veteran's Administration
Hampton, Lori, Program Specialist, OLAW
Knisely, Jane, Ph.D., Presidential Management Fellow, OD
Roger, Joyce, Budget Analyst, OD
Silk, Susan, Director, Division of Policy & Education, OLAW
Thomas, Kate, Government Relations Manager, American Academy of Audiology

Appendix 3

NIDCD Director's Report Slides

As Presented By

James F. Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Director, NIDCD

NIDCD Advisory Council Meeting

May 30, 2008

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

**May 2008 Council
Budget Mechanism
(Dollars in thousands)**

<i>Budget Mechanism</i>	FY 2008 Appropriation		FY 2009	President's Request
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Research Projects				
Noncompeting	627	\$202,995	634	\$205,980
Admin Supplements	(18)	1,150	(18)	1,150
Competing	214	62,964	202	59,572
Subtotal	841	267,109	836	266,702
SBIR/STTR	30	9,500	30	9,500
Subtotal, RPG's	871	276,609	866	276,202
Research Centers	20	17,079	20	17,709
Other Research	71	10,318	70	10,318
Total Research Grants	962	304,006	956	303,599
Individual Training	152	5,720	151	5,720
Institutional Training	201	7,980	200	7,980
R&D Contracts	52	22,000	52	22,000
Intramural Research		35,831		36,868
Research Mgmt. & Support		18,601		18,880
NIH Roadmap		0		0
TOTAL		\$394,138		\$395,047

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

**May 2008 Council
Competing Research Project Grants
(Dollars in thousands)**

Total RPG Funds FY08 budget	\$276,609
Less SBIR/STTR budget	-9,500
Less Administrative Supplements budget	-1,150
Less Noncompeting budget	-204,238
Less FY08 "Carryover" Commitments from prior Council meetings	-1,356
Less FY08 Program Requirements	-14,500
Plus FY07 funds	5,074

Total \$50,939

20% HPP	80% Regular
\$10,188	\$40,751
\$3,396	\$13,584